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Food and Nutrition

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PRESIDENT PROPOSES PROGRAM TO EXPAND AND IMPROVE CHILD NUTRITION EFFORTS

ON MAY 6 PRESIDENT NIXON proposed a three-part program to expand and improve Federal efforts to provide food for needy children:

1. He submitted a comprehensive school nutrition bill to revise and reform the present school lunch and breakfast programs--so that incentives will be provided for expanding these programs and so that each dollar spent on them will do more good.
2. He asked that an additional \$25 million be allocated for feeding needy children in our cities this summer.
3. He requested an additional \$19.5 million to extend the school breakfast program to some 3,000 additional schools in the coming year.

The new school nutrition legislation would simplify and improve the structure for Federal funding in several ways. One of its most important provisions would substitute a performance system for the traditional apportionment system in allocating Federal funds for both the school lunch and breakfast programs.

Under the performance system, the more pupils served in a State, the more Federal assistance it receives. This arrangement establishes an incentive for States to insure that all needy children will be fed. This incentive has not been present in the traditional statutory apportionment system--under which funding did not readily reflect increases in participation.

The proposed legislation would also establish new minimum and maximum eligibility standards for needy children. It would require that all children from families below the poverty line, who now may be served either a free or reduced-price lunch, receive lunches free. To account for geographical differences, the legislation would allow States flexibility to set higher eligibility standards within reasonable limits.

The additional \$25 million for the summer feeding program would bring total funding for this program to \$50.5 million--2½ times as high as last summer's level. These new sums would make it possible to support all applications for this program that meet the criteria which have been spelled out in laws and regulations. The Food and Nutrition Service is working with States and cities to improve local program administration in order to eliminate the severe mismanagement that marred these programs in some cities last summer.

The additional \$19.5 million for the school breakfast program would bring total funding for this program in the coming school year to \$52.5 million. This compares to \$31 million available for the school year now ending. The new money would make it possible to accept applications from all the schools indicated in State plans of operation as potential candidates for establishing breakfast programs in fiscal year 1973.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY: Three Years After the President's 'Hunger Message'

Three years ago, on May 6, 1969, President Nixon sent his first message on hunger and malnutrition to the Congress, mapping out a plan to "put an end to hunger in America." Here is a statistical summary of what has been done in the ensuing 3 years:

	<u>May 1969</u>	<u>May 1970</u>	<u>May 1971</u>	<u>March 1972*</u>
Number of counties which have no family food program	440	62	9	8
Total number of participants in the family food programs	6,900,000	10,100,000	14,200,000	15,000,000
Total number of participants in the Food Stamp Program	3,200,000	6,100,000	10,400,000	11,500,000
Dollar value of bonus food stamps issued for month	\$21,100,000	\$86,500,000	\$139,700,000	\$156,300,000
Total number of participants in the Food Distribution Program	3,700,000	4,000,000	3,800,000	3,500,000
Total number of children participating in the National School Lunch Program	21,500,000	22,500,000	24,700,000	25,200,000
Number of children reached with free or reduced-price lunches	3,800,000	5,100,000	7,300,000	8,300,000

* Latest figures available.

Food Stamp Coupon Allotments Boosted

ON APRIL 14, USDA increased coupon allotments for all food stamp participants in the 48 contiguous States and District of Columbia in accordance with provisions of the Food Stamp Act of 1964, as amended. The Act requires that the value of the coupon allotment be adjusted annually to reflect changes in the prices of food published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The Department based the allotment increases on statistics from December 1971. The amendment is announced at this time to allow States to implement the changes by the effective date of July 1.

In addition, the amendment increases maximum income eligibility standards and raises purchase requirements correspondingly for households at the upper end of the income scale. No household will receive a reduction in benefits as a result of this amendment.

Food stamp allotments are geared to the cost of USDA's "economy diet," with the amount of money paid by households not to exceed 30 percent of income. Based on Bureau of Labor Statistics data, the cost of the economy food plan for December 1971 was \$111.10 for a family of four with schoolchildren. Accordingly, USDA raised the value of the coupon allotment from \$108 to \$112 for a family of four and made appropriate adjustments for other household sizes. Maximum income standard for the four-person household will be increased from \$360 to \$373 nationally.

Starting July 1, national maximum eligibility standards for the following household sizes are:

One.	\$ 178	Five.	\$ 440
Two.	233	Six	507
Three.	307	Seven	573
Four	373	Eight	640

Each additional household member over eight will add \$16 to the eight-person household stamp allotment and \$53 to the eligibility level.

The increase in total coupon allotments has also required increases in purchase requirements at the highest levels of income. Recent revisions were made in the tables to insure that no family received less benefits (bonus coupons) than they received earlier. In doing this, the purchase requirements had to be lowered for the highest income families. So, this was a "break" for the families with higher incomes.

For example, at the present time these higher income families are paying only \$6 more for every \$100 increase in income while the lower income families are paying \$6 more for every \$20 increase in income. This is a real inequity to the lower income families who need the most food assistance. In July we will take the first step to correct this inequity and to again treat all families alike.

FOOD STAMP PROVISION RESTRAINED

IN ACCORDANCE WITH A temporary restraining order by a Federal Court, USDA on April 7 instructed State agencies to suspend immediately and until further notice the requirement that household members must be related to be eligible for the food stamp program.

The order came as the result of a civil suit that challenges the constitutional-

ity of the statutory prohibition against participation of communal households in the food stamp program.

USDA instructed State agencies to notify local certification offices that "...no household which is applying for participation, which is now certified for participation, or which is being recertified for participation shall be determined to be ineligible solely for the reason that one or more of the members of the household are not related to other members of the household." No other eligibility requirement is suspended or modified.

The temporary restraining order will remain in effect until a decision is handed down by the three-judge panel which reviewed the suit on April 14. The panel is composed of judges from the U.S. District Court and the U.S. Court of Appeals.

Dual Operation Amendment Announced

AN AMENDMENT TO THE Food Stamp Program regulations which sets forth procedures and guidelines for simultaneous operation of the Food Stamp and Food Distribution Programs in the same area was announced by USDA on May 5.

The amendment was published in proposed form on February 17 with an invitation for public comment and suggestions. The Department received nine responses. Six comments suggested the Department supply funds to cover the administrative responsibilities of the State agencies in dual operation situations. The Food Stamp Act, however, does not authorize the Department to pay these costs.

After consideration of the comments received, the amendment was adopted as proposed. A summary of the comments and the reasons for the Department's decisions on these comments will be pub-

lished in the Federal Register with the amendment.

The amendment will be effective immediately upon its publication in the Federal Register, scheduled for Tuesday, May 9.

15 Counties Join Food Stamp Program

FIFTEEN COUNTIES IN eight States were designated on April 26 for the food stamp program by Edward J. Hekman, FNS Administrator.

The counties are:

Georgia: Murray, Stewart
Kansas: Scott
Kentucky: Garrard, McLean
Mississippi: Wilkinson
Missouri: Caldwell, Polk, Shannon
Oklahoma: Cleveland, Harmon, Oklahoma, Tulsa
Pennsylvania: Union
Wisconsin: Florence

Exact dates when the areas designated will begin issuing food stamps will be announced locally.

PROCESSING CONTRACTS HELP SCHOOLS

Processing contracts for food products made with USDA-donated foods continue to save time and money for schools in many States. Among them is New Jersey, which expects to save at least \$200,000 by March 1973 through a new statewide contract with the LaRosa Co. to make spaghetti and macaroni for use in school lunch programs.

The State had a contract with another company, which processed USDA flour into pasta products at a discount of \$1.70 to \$2.30 per box off market value. The new contract will mean an additional 40 to 50 cents savings per box, because LaRosa's processing costs are lower.

About 2,000,000 pounds of durum wheat flour, a high-quality flour approved by USDA in September 1971, will be used in the upcoming contract.

Processing contracts are a cash-saving method whereby commercial processors produce food for schools, using USDA-donated ingredients, and credit the schools with the discount. New Jersey schools have many such contracts for various goods; however, the LaRosa contract is one of the first statewide, regular agreements for the service.

By next March, the State estimates, the number of children eating processed bread products (cookies, bread, pie-shells, etc.) will increase 100 percent (from a current 200,000 to 400,000) at a savings to the schools of \$630,000 a year. The savings on canned cranberries, another processed item, has been \$4.40 a case.

Drive to Serve Volunteers Honored

FORTY-ONE SENIOR high school students in Attleboro, Mass., were honored on April 26 for their volunteer services in the "Drive to Serve" program. At an early-morning press ceremony, the students each received a handshake and certificate from Congresswoman Margaret M. Heckler who applauded their unselfish act in delivering donated foods to senior citizens.

"One of the basic needs of the elderly," she said, "is good nutrition. Someone has to get them in the habit of eating properly and of taking care of their bodies. This is where you stepped in. Your involvement in Drive to Serve will be an inspiration to other parts of the country."

Among other dignitaries praising the students were FNS Food Distribution Division Director Juan del Castillo, Attle-

boro Mayor Raymond Macomber, and representatives of the State legislature.

Once a month the Attleboro Senior High School students are dismissed from class an hour early to drive to the distribution center and pick up orders for 126 elderly persons participating in the food distribution program. At each stop the students chat with recipients and assist in unpacking the delivered cartons.

SCHOOL LUNCH 'OUTREACH' CLICKS IN THE NORTHEAST

THE NORTHEAST FNS Regional Office has developed a new and effective technique to reach schools without lunch programs.

The concept is basic: Bring administrators of the no-program schools together in a one-day conference and explain how the lunch program can help them.

The first such session was held at Rutgers University, New Brunswick, N.J., on March 22, co-sponsored by the New Jersey Department of Education and Rutgers' Department of Food Science. Of the 119 districts in the State that don't have lunch programs, 70 representatives attended the meeting.

Regional Administrator Wally Warren calls the results "extremely encouraging." Thirty-one of those school districts are now greatly interested in joining the National School Lunch Program; that will put lunch programs in 66 additional schools.

Now the idea is spreading to adjoining Pennsylvania. The Keystone State's Department of Education is working with Warren on plans for three workshops for no-program schools to be held during September and October. Similar seminars have been held for no-program private

schools in the dioceses of Pittsburgh and Greensburg, Pa., and Wheeling, W. Va.; and arrangements for additional workshops are being made with the National Society for Hebrew Day Schools.

Special Food Service Regs Revised

USDA REVISED ITS regulations for the Special Food Service Program for Children on March 24 to assist States in planning the food service operations for summer recreational programs and year-round child care centers.

The program is aimed primarily at reaching needy children. The summer phase of the program is designed to provide nutritious food to children during the months when school is not in session.

The proposal to revise the regulations was announced by FNS on February 14. During the 20 days provided for public comment, responses were received from 52 individuals and organizations, including several members of Congress.

Several respondents pointed out that service institutions would not have sufficient time this year to complete the necessary program planning prior to April 1, the proposed deadline for priority consideration of an application. As a result, the final regulations were changed to make April 17 the date for filing applications for this calendar year. April 1 will apply in subsequent calendar years.

Other comments and suggestions concerned the priorities for consideration of applications, and these changes have been made to clarify the manner in which the priorities are to be applied:

- First priority will be given to applications filed before April 17 by

service institutions which participated in special summer programs during the previous calendar year at not more than last year's approximate funding.

- Second priority will be given to applications received before April 17 from service institutions which did not participate in the special summer programs during the last calendar year.

- Third, applications from service institutions in the first priority will be considered for that portion of the application which is in excess of the approximate amount of funds used in the previous calendar year.

Consideration of applications received after April 17 will be based on the date of receipt.

Under the final regulations, a service institution contracting with a food service company or other commercial vendor to prepare or deliver meals or meal components must use a competitive bid procedure in selecting this company if 500 or more children are to be served daily. However, new language was added to make it clear that these service institutions are not required to complete the competitive bid procedures prior to submitting a program application.

The revised regulations were published in the Federal Register on Saturday, March 25, 1972, and went into effect immediately.

NEW TRAINING MANUALS POINT WAY TO GOOD SUMMER PROGRAMS

TWO INSTRUCTIONAL GUIDES have been issued to assist in the training of sponsors and site supervisors of food service operators in summer recreational programs under the Special Food Service Program for Children.

One training manual is primarily for Federal and State workers to use in informing sponsors of program responsibilities and in preparing them to train personnel in their food service operation. The other manual is for sponsors to use in training the on-site personnel who are responsible for receiving and serving meals.

The two training manuals are part of the continuing effort by FNS to make the summer feeding program more effective in reaching those in need.

Food Service Handbook Reviewed

THE FIRST NATIONAL food service financial management system handbook for use in schools and institutions participating in the National School Lunch Program and other USDA child feeding programs is scheduled to be published in June.

The public accounting firm of Peat, Marwick, Mitchell and Co. of Washington, D.C., is developing the handbook with the cooperation of USDA personnel, State school lunch directors, and local officials. Plans are to use the handbook in a number of districts during the next school year as a forerunner to its recommended use nationally.

Representatives of State and local agencies and FNS met April 20-21 in Washington to review the first draft of the manual.

NEW RECIPE CARD FILE AVAILABLE

COOKING FOR A CROWD can be a real challenge. And, when you do it regularly, you need know-how and recipes designed both for good taste and ease.

From USDA comes a helpful tool, a new edition of the card file, "Quantity

Recipes for Type A School Lunches" (PA-631), for school lunch managers in some 80,000 public and private nonprofit schools taking part in the National School Lunch Program. The recipes are designed to yield 100 portions and are carefully planned to appeal to children's food tastes, to provide variety in school lunches, and to make good use of both locally purchased foods and USDA-donated foods.

Along with new and updated recipes, the card file features information on the Type A school lunch pattern, methods of adjusting recipes to accommodate the number of children served in a school, conversion charts, standard measures and scoops for portion control, and general instructions on the use of USDA-donated nonfat dry milk and dried whole eggs.

Each recipe that can be used to meet Type A lunch requirements--meat and meat alternate, vegetable and fruit, and bread--is so identified in the upper left corner of the recipe card. For speedy menu planning, a summary listing of these recipes is provided.

One free copy of the recipe file is made available to all schools participating in the National School Lunch Program.

The card file may be purchased for \$8.00 from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. Specify the number and title (PA-631), which supercedes PA-271, "Recipes, Type A School Lunches."

Grain-Fruit Specifications Approved

ON MARCH 16, USDA announced specifications for formulated grain-fruit products for use in the School Breakfast and Special Food Service Program for Children.

The specifications are a listing of the chemical components, or ingredients of the product; that is, the exact formula by which it must be made in order to be approved for use in the child feeding programs.

Specifications for the product have been supplied to State agencies for voluntary use by schools and service institutions in buying the product. It is anticipated that the formulated bakery product may come in a variety of forms ranging from individual fruit pies, tarts, doughnuts, peanut butter cookies, fig bars, raisin filled cookies to wafers, cup-cakes, and other fortified baked items.

All of these products, where approved on an individual basis, and when served with 1/2 pint of whole milk will meet the breakfast requirement under the School Breakfast or Special Food Service program. When served with 1/2 cup of whole milk, juice, fruit or vegetable, they will meet the "supplemental" requirement (the mid-morning or mid-afternoon meal) under the Special Food Service Program.

Use of the specifications by schools and service institutions will be on a completely voluntary basis. When served in the USDA-recommended breakfast or in supplemental feeding, the products will qualify for reimbursement by FNS.

A properly balanced diet of conventional foods provides adequate nutrition, but many children do not get the nutrition they need from conventional foods due to a lack of food preparation and service facilities in their schools. Recognizing the advances that have been made in food technology, as well as the changes in dietary habits, FNS is interested in the use of formulated foods to increase the availability of nutrients to greater numbers of children.

The detailed specifications are set forth in FNS (CN) Instruction 783-5. A copy of this instruction is available from the Food and Nutrition Service.

